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SEP 22 1951

Mr. William Bradford Huie
The American Mercury
251 West 42nd Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Huie:

I am writing in reply to your letter of September 14, 1951.

In establishing the Central Intelligence Agency under the terms of the National Security Act of 1947, the Congress provided that the Director shall be held "responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure." Consequently, it is the policy of CIA to decline comment on any statement that may relate to activities imputed to this Agency. This silence carries no implication as to the truth or falsity of the statement relating to us.

I am sure that your long familiarity with security requirements of the armed forces will enable you to understand the necessity for this caution in as sensitive an undertaking as ours.

Sincerely,

signed

Allen W. Dulles
Acting Director

ODCI/CBH:nhh

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY

32 EAST 57TH ST, NEW YORK 22, N.Y., MORNING HUR 8-8276X

WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, Editor

251 West 42nd Street, New York 18, New York

September 14, 1951

Dear General Smith:

In both The American Mercury and the current Cosmopolitan, I have reported how Jim Forrestal employed a \$50,000 bribe to help settle the French railway strike in 1947. The facts are known to a number of Americans. The money was raised very quickly at the Brook Club in New York--in fact, it became known as "Operation Brook Club." The money was then carried to France by a naval intelligence agent, and paid to certain members of the Communist Party. Admiral Hillenkoetter arranged to make these contributions deductible.

This incident has been omitted from the Forrestal Papers now being published by the Herald-Tribune Syndicate. Le Figaro in Paris has purchased rights to the Forrestal Papers, and is quite disappointed at this omission. The paper has asked me to obtain additional details.

I wonder if you would care to either confirm or deny the story; and if you confirm it, would you reveal the circumstances of the payment in Paris and the names of the Communists to whom the money was paid?

If there are reasons why you do not wish to confirm this story, is there any valid reason why I should not question the intelligence agent who handled the payment?

I would very much appreciate a prompt reply.

Sincerely,


William Bradford Huie

General Bedell Smith
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, 1950-1951

HUIIE, William Bradford

author, lecturer; b. Hartselle, Ala., Nov. 13, 1910; s. John Bradford and Margaret Lois (Brindley) H.; A.B., Univ. of Ala., 1930; m. Ruth Puckett, Oct. 27, 1934. Reporter, The Birmingham Post, 1932-36; asso. editor The American Mercury, 1941-43; lecturer since 1941. Served as lt., U.S.Navy, 1943-45. Mem. Phi Beta Kappa. Author: Mud on the Stars, 1942; The Fight for Air Power, 1942; Can Do; The Story of the Seabees, 1944; From Omaha to Okinawa, 1945; The Case Against the Admirals, 1946. Author numerous mag. articles and stories. Home: 8341 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, Md.

Home telephone: Sligo 9510.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Director of Central Intelligence, under the National Security Act of 1947, which sets up the Central Intelligence Agency, is held "responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure". Consequently, it is the general policy of this Agency, ~~neither to deny nor~~ ^{to make no comment} regarding allegations ^{is} ~~confirm~~ statements which may be made as to operations ~~which~~ ^{it is alleged to have carried out.} (Hence the fact that no further reply is made to your specific inquiry does not imply that this Agency has or has not any information with regard thereto.)

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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	Colonel Hansen		
2			
3			
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	DDCI	A.W.D.	9/18/51
2			
3			

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REMARKS: Please speak to me about the attached at
your convenience.

A.W.D.

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